Met Office

NEWS

Snow warnings updated

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Snow to affect parts of Scotland from Sunday afternoon, and further snow forecast for large parts of Northern England and North Wales from Monday evening.

By Sunday, colder air from the Arctic arrives across northern Scotland, and we'll see the start of some unsettled weather for all parts as an area of low pressure arrives from the Atlantic.

A Yellow National Severe Weather Warning for snow and ice has been issued for the north of Scotland and the Northern Isles from Sunday afternoon to Monday morning. Here, showers will turn increasingly wintry through the day with hail, sleet and some snow. Little snow is likely to settle at low levels by day, but through the evening and overnight, 1 to 3 cm may accumulate in some places within the warning area, whilst 5 to 10 cm is possible on high ground above 300 metres by Monday morning. As temperatures fall overnight, ice is likely to form on untreated surfaces.

Snow for some from Monday evening

Further snow and ice are forecast from Monday evening and overnight into Tuesday. Although most snow is still likely to accumulate on higher ground, with 5-10 cm on ground over 200 metres and possibly 15-20 cm over 300 metres, there is a chance that snow may settle at lower levels within the warning area. This possible 5-10 cm at lower levels is likely to be more disruptive, particularly if travelling and if the snow coincides rush hour, but the likelihood for that is still uncertain at this stage.

As the rain, sleet and snow clear on Tuesday morning, ice may form on untreated surfaces.

Full details are in our yellow National Severe Weather Warning which is effect from 7pm on Monday evening, through to 10am on Tuesday morning.

Chief Meteorologist, Andy Page, said "We have issued yellow warnings for snow and ice as cold weather moves in from the north. This brings snow showers and some ice to parts of Scotland on Sunday night, and then the potential for a spell of snow to lead to disruption to some transport routes across a central swathe of the UK on Tuesday morning. Gusty winds in the east also remain a potential hazard. Updates to the warnings for wintry hazards are likely so it is important to stay up to date with the latest forecast"

In addition to the severe weather warnings, a Cold Health Alert has been issued by the UKHSA which provides alerts for the health sector in England. The alert covers the Midlands and North of England from Sunday morning through to Thursday.

Why is it so difficult to forecast snow?

Forecasting impactful snow in the UK is tricky, and there are a number of factors that meteorologists are looking out for. Read more about forecasting snow in the UK.

Cold weather advice

Thinking ahead and preparing for the colder conditions that are on the way can make a real difference.

Read more about keeping your home warm and how cold weather can affect your health as part of the Met Office's WeatherReady campaign.

As the north prepares to feel the cooler air first, Age Scotland's Chief Executive, Katherine Crawford said:

"As we get older it can take us longer to warm up, and colder temperatures can exacerbate respiratory problems, heart disease and other health conditions.

"There is also a concern for older people who have difficulty heating their homes to a comfortable level because of the bigger energy bills we are facing. There is concern too for those with restricted mobility, who may find it harder to get out and about while travel disruption prevents people from being able to get from one place to another safely.

"There are also simple steps we can all take to ensure no one feels they are facing this period alone. Bad weather may make it difficult for people to get out for essential shopping or medical appointments, so we'd urge everyone to check in on older family, friends and neighbours during this period to find out if they need any extra support.

"A friendly phone call or an offer to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or de-icing paths could be a lifeline for someone who feels isolated at home during this cold spell."

"Older people, their carers and families in Scotland looking for help or advice can call Age Scotland's free helpline on 0800 12 44 222."

NHS 24 is Scotland's provider of digital and telephone-based health and care services, including the 111-service and NHS inform. Dr Siama Latif, NHS 24's Associate Medical Director said: "When the weather gets colder this can have an impact on everyone's health and wellbeing, but especially those who could be considered vulnerable, such as the very young, the elderly, or those with long-term health conditions.

"If you have vulnerable neighbours or relatives, or know someone who may need additional support, it's a good idea to check in with them to make sure they are feeling well, are warm enough at home, and have enough food and medicines if they are unable to go out in bad weather.

"If you need to be out and about during a cold spell, make sure you wrap up warmly and wear shoes with good grip to try and avoid any slips, trips, or falls.

"Our digital services NHSinform.scot or the NHS 24 Online app have some great advice if you need tips on managing winter illnesses or are seeking help with any sprains or strains. These resources are invaluable for ensuring you get the right advice and support, especially during the colder months."

You can find the latest forecast on our website, on YouTube, by following us on X and Facebook, as well as on our mobile app which is available for iPhone from the App store and for Android from the Google Play store.

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